

Assistant Director, ONR

22 June 1960

Chief, Geographic Research

Briefing Notes on Geographic Area Activities for FY 1961

The Geographic Area program is built upon the missions and functions of the three major components. We are attempting to provide a geographic research capability responsive to rapidly changing intelligence needs, a cartographic activity capable of producing accurate and effective maps and charts, and a map library reference service which provides intelligence personnel with the most recent and best map coverage available anywhere in the world. The components of our program related to the above objectives are as follows:

A. Geography Division

1. Geographic research will continue its direct support of other intelligence programs. The largest single activity will be that in support of operational planning for clandestine collection and field activities. Sizeable parts of the research effort will also be devoted to the NIS program, special overt collection programs including [REDACTED] and tourist objective studies related to major intelligence targets, and support of analyses and estimates in the field of Soviet science and military capabilities.

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2. In fulfillment of our own intelligence responsibilities, we will continue the evaluation of Soviet accomplishments in the fields of mapping and geodesy, analysis of geographic factors involved in situations of special concern to United States plans and policy, and reporting on the geographic base of significant changes in areas of intelligence concern, as well as a comprehensive study of the role of Sino-Soviet geographers in economic, military, and political planning in the USSR, the Satellites, and China.

3. Although geographic production is largely unprogrammed, it is anticipated that more research effort will be required on Southeast Asia, Trans-Saharan Africa, and Latin America. More production may be required in support of guided missiles, nuclear energy, and Polar activities intelligence.

4. The Soviet urban area analysis program will be sizeable and may well increase, given the possible development of new leads and sources.

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5. Throughout the year, the main thrust of activity will consist of contributing geographic analysis to the solution of critical intelligence problems in all fields.

B. Cartography Division

1. The program of the Cartography Division will, in large part, be determined by the kinds of requests received from the components of CIA and the Department of State.

2. Using the pattern established by our present activities, we can project the continuation of a sizeable NIS program involving the production and revision of standard and page-size maps, Chapter I Summary maps, as well as subject maps for various Chapters and Sections of the NIS. The total number of such items is estimated to be between 275 and 300 for the next fiscal year.

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3. Another program of work which in all probability will increase in volume and importance is [REDACTED]. During the past six months, requests for map assistance in this program have more than doubled. During the coming year, the Division is already committed to give additional assistance [REDACTED] in the printing of City Plans produced by them.

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4. The Cartography Division is also involved along with the Geography Division in the City Plan Program to supply the DD/P with planimetric drawings of selected cities of the USSR. Already scheduled is a new list of twelve cities agreed upon jointly by DD/P, the Guided Missiles Task Force, and other components in the Agency.

5. A large block of effort will continue to be allocated to the production of maps, charts and graphs for the NIE's, economic intelligence reports, geographic reports, current intelligence daily and weekly publications of OCI, and scientific intelligence reports.

6. The Department of State will receive support as required for the preparation of graphics for various departmental publications and for such separate maps as "Consular Districts", and "Areas Closed to Foreigners in the USSR and Satellite Countries".

7. The Cartography Division will continue its substantial support to a number of operational activities of the DD/P, providing training in map sketching and field surveying. This program involves the assignment of personnel for limited periods to [REDACTED] and the production of many detailed sketch maps for field use.

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8. Two external research contracts are being sponsored by the Cartography Division. The first, to be completed in September 1960, will provide five maps of "Asia and its Fringing Islands" at the scale of 1:5,000,000. The second contract, which is to be started in FY 1960, calls for the compilation of 17 special purpose maps for use in backstopping components of the Agency in the analysis and presentation of selected intelligence data.

C. Map Library Division

1. The major emphasis in the Map Library Division program in the coming year will be the support of efforts to collect topographic maps and geodetic data on the Sino-Soviet Bloc. Most of the basic background and collection requirements have been completed and disseminated to CIA, Army, and Air Force collectors. The series of detailed target studies on the Sino-Soviet Bloc which are under preparation should be completed during the first half of FY 1961.

2. Greater attention will be paid to the development of specific operational needs of DD/P to include the identification, potential for development, and utilization of foreign nationals, both for overt observation and elicitation and for covert operations. This whole effort can be characterized as a detailed backstopping of covert collection activities in full cooperation with the DD/P and other field intelligence collecting units.

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3. The foreign procurement program utilizing the [REDACTED] will emphasize the collection of maps and intelligence on mapping and map personnel in Eastern Europe. Increased efforts for map procurement will also be made in the United Arab Republic and the newly created countries of Africa. There will be fuller coordination of procurement of maps and related publications on Antarctica through the issuance of a joint acquisitions list.

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